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Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge Choir to Perform in Kasson

Kasson UMC & Pleasant Corners UMC will host the Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge (MnTC) in a performance open to the community on Sunday, September 26, 2021. The choir will perform at 9:00 AM at Kasson UMC and at 11:00 AM at Pleasant Corners UMC.

The choir's contemporary gospel and praise songs will be accompanied by inspiring client stories of addiction recovery. Additionally, representatives from the program will be available following the service to answer questions about the programs of MnTC.

"The choir will provide a firsthand look into drug and alcohol issues facing our state and also provide encouragement through the hope they now have for their futures," said Tom Truszinski, Center Director Rochester MNTC.

(continued on page 2)

Triton Welcomes New Teacher

By Kenya Narveson

The Triton School District has welcomed new teachers to their team for the school year. Teachers must have the ability to engage all of the students' various reading levels and understanding to pass the grade-level assessments. As a teacher you have to find ways to engage all students and find opportunities for them to learn and grow in

your classroom.

Jennifer Wyttenbach had been a teacher and instructional coach for over a decade at Kasson-Mantorville schools. She felt led to join Triton School District after hearing wonderful accolades about the staff. "I felt called to this district.

Everybody loves working here. Teachers, custodial staff, kitchen staff had nothing but

great things to say about working here. The supportive culture is important to me and led me here."

She currently teaches 7th & 8th Grade English. And she also assists with 6th graders transitioning into middle school. There is so much more to teaching English in middle school than introducing great books to students. As an English teacher your focus is to prepare the students to read and understand an array of different texts from: novels, short stories, to poetry.

"I have a definite passion for education. And I believe before you can educate the kids with the academics you have to build those relationships. I'm really excited to foster the love for learning and help them to believe they can do anything. It's new for me to get to know three different communities and learn what it means to be a Cobra. I'm hoping to inspire them."

English Teachers must teach reading and writing skills. It is important for English teachers to be reflective and to think about their effectiveness on a day-to-day basis. Each student will differ greatly in their reading and writing skills. This means that teachers must be problem-solvers and find ways to meet the needs of all their students. Jennifer further goes on to explain, "I do teach English, however I feel passionate about developing good humans to be productive and successful citizens."



Jennifer Wyttenbach
English Teacher

(continued on page 4)

Triton FFA Members Attend Workshop



By Robert Ickler

On August 25, Chris and Julie Staub of Staub Farms hosted a crops workshop for Triton FFA members to learn about soil moisture monitoring probes developed by Earthscout. Students learned the probes can keep data on soil temperature, humidity in the growing zone of the plants, soil moisture percent and cation exchange capacity of minerals in the soil profile. Pictured left to right are Jacob Kasper, Brady Staub, Henry McMartin and Morgan Styndl.

Announcements

- The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a meal carry out from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.
- West Concord Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *(see ad on page 3)*

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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A Lesson Learned from Crabapple Picking

By Mike Zaske, Interim Pastor
Faith Lutheran Church, Dodge Center

In February of this year, my 2021 took an unexpected and unwelcome turn.

Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge Choir to Perform in Kasson

(continued from page 1)

Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge (formerly MN Teen Challenge) offers programs throughout Minnesota with campuses in Minneapolis, Brainerd, Duluth, Rochester and Buffalo. Since 1983, Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge has been restoring hope to people struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. In addition to MnTC's effective and affordable residential Licensed Treatment, faith-based Long-Term Recovery and convenient Outpatient programs, MnTC has extensive prevention and transitional/aftercare services.

For additional information, please call Jose Koehler at 507-218-3455.

Watch our Facebook page for changes due to Covid restrictions.

<https://www.facebook.com/Kasson-United-Methodist-Church-144043498961936>

While out for my daily walk, I slipped on some ice and somehow managed to break my right ankle. If you've ever had a similar accident, you know how quickly it can happen—and how dramatically it impacts you for many months to come.

Thankfully, I was able to have surgery within a week to repair the fractures, and soon began the long road to recovery. My healing moved along at a slow, but steady, pace. By July, I was able to resume most activities. Thus, in early August, I (foolishly) decided I was ready to tackle a task that presents itself annually at that time of year: picking the fruit off of our crabapple tree. Recovering from a major surgery...climbing up a ladder...reaching out on my tiptoes...what could possibly go wrong???

Within a mere ten minutes, I found myself lying on the ground, writhing in pain. I remember a strong gust of wind...stretching to grasp a branch with what appeared to be a million crabapples on it...the ladder starting to sway...and then suddenly having to jump for my life! Though the fall only took maybe a tenth of a second, it seemed to last an hour. I landed hard on my heels, and immediately crumpled to the earth in a heap.

Thankfully, I did not re-break the ankle. As I laid there rolling left and right in distress, I found that I desperately wanted to blame someone or something for what had just happened—the wind for being too

gusty...the branch for being just out of my reach...the friend who lent me the ladder...my wife for not stopping me from attempting to pick crabapples in the first place... Basically, I wanted to shift accountability for my fall to anyone except the one responsible for what had occurred, namely ME!

This inability to own our failings has plagued human beings literally since the beginning. People have almost an innate propensity to shift blame away from themselves when things go awry. For example, when asked by God if he had eaten from the forbidden tree, Adam could have been a stand-up guy and accepted responsibility for what he had done. He didn't—he blamed Eve. And so this has gone on for millenia.

When we blame others, 99.9% of the time we are just adding another sin to our pile—

the sin of what we did, and the sin of trying to pin it on someone innocent. It's a terrible "look", not to mention a lousy thing to do.

Finally, trying to blame others is a denial of God's grace and forgiveness. When we've messed up, God stands ready to forgive. But when we try to push our failing onto someone else, our pride denies God a chance to change our heart and make us a better person. We pass up a golden opportunity to grow closer to the Lord. It's a huge missed moment to grow in faith.

So, in order not to make that mistake, let me say it loud and clear: The fall I took that day five weeks ago while picking crabapples was MY fault! I repent of my immediate reaction to blame anyone or anything other than me. May God have mercy on me—which I am confident, for Jesus' sake, will be so!

FAITH IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

Covid 19 has been hard on most individuals. It has closed down many of the things that we all hold dear – seeing family, worshiping together in church, going out to a favorite restaurant, browsing in shops, and on and on. Faith in Action has felt the impact of the pandemic also. Many of our limited volunteer drivers chose to put volunteering on hold early on in the pandemic. At first, it didn't effect our services because most medical appointments were canceled or postponed so there was no need for transportation services. As things began opening up, appointments became available again but some drivers still weren't comfortable transporting someone in the confines of their cars. The vaccine is helping to get us back on track but there is still an urgent need for volunteers to drive seniors to appointments.

Being a volunteer for Faith in Action is a very flexible position. When clients call for transportation, our coordinator contacts volunteers with the dates and times needed. At that point, it is the volunteer's decision whether they can take the transport or not. If not, the coordinator will contact other volunteers to fill the need. In a given month, a volunteer might choose to provide transportation for seniors perhaps 1 to 4 times. Please consider putting your "faith in action" by becoming a Faith in Action volunteer driver. On our website, fiadodgecounty.org (under forms on the menu) you will find a volunteer application to print, complete and return. If you do not have internet access, please call 507-634-3654 for an application.

E-mail your engagement, marriage or birth announcement to the Dodge Center Messenger!

E-mail address:
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Area Church Directory

Fear for Nothing?

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" — Job 1:9

I can remember a time in college when everything was going really well. I had lots of friends, I was getting good grades, I was having fun, I was involved in a great church, my relationship with God was thriving, and I even enjoyed my part-time job. Everything was going great, and I was extremely happy.

When everything is going well, it is relatively easy to honor and praise God and follow him wholeheartedly—to fear God in the biblical sense of being devoted to him.

In Job 1, Satan claimed it was easy for Job to fear God because his life was going so well. Job had 10 children, thousands of animals, and many servants. Job was a great man whose kids threw great parties. He would even offer sacrifices just in case someone in his household sinned against God. So of course Job feared God. Satan said. His life was great!

As the story of Job continued, however, all those blessings were taken from him. His family, his possessions, and even his health were taken away. Yet Job still feared God. Our devotion to God shouldn't be dependent on how well life is going for us. If we fear God only because life is good, then we really don't fear God at all.

As you think about your devotion to God, make sure you fear God because of who he is and not because he can give you great blessings.

Prayer

Awesome God, help us to adore and worship you because of who you are—God above all things. Amen.

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Faith Lutheran Church

308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
Intern Pastor Kira Anderson • 507-374-2174
Traditional Worship 8a.m.; Fellowship 9a.m.
Christian Education 9:15a.m.
Contemporary Worship 10a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliot Malm • 507-633-2253
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kidz Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. SE, Dodge Center
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885
Worship 8a.m.

St. John Baptist De La Salle

20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561
Sunday 10a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

410 3rd Ave. SW, Dodge Center • 507-374-6895
Sabbath School 9:15a.m.; Saturday Worship 11a.m.

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

203 E. Main St., Dodge Center
507-374-6755
Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

Bible Lutheran Church

(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center
www.biblelc.org • 612-803-1212
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
(weekly sermons available on You Tube and on website)

Dallas Joseph Laqua

Dallas Joseph Laqua, age 27, of Dodge Center, MN, died on Friday, August 14, 2021.



Dallas was born on May 9, 1994 to Tamera Joy (Schletty) Laqua and Thomas Michael Laqua. Dallas graduated from Triton High School in 2012.

Prior to attending Triton, Dallas was a student at Lake City High School. A highlight of Dallas' high school years was playing football. He played a variety of positions and was honored to be a part of the Triton Cobra state competition his junior year.

As a youngster, Dallas enjoyed the outdoors, especially climbing trees and zip lining. His joy of climbing trees led him to begin a career, alongside his father, as an Arbor Man. Together they ran their own small business for a few years. Dallas then began roofing, working 6 years for Above All Roofing. Most importantly, Dallas' greatest passion in life was his daughter, Eden, and spending time with her. She brought joy to his life and he to hers.

Dallas is survived by his daughters, Eden and newborn, Karma; mother, Tammy, Dodge Center; father, Tom (Sue) Laqua, Millville. Siblings: Travis Schletty, Harmony; Nichole (Tony) Engesser, Mankato; Trevor (Netta) Laqua, Oak Center; and Trenton (Kimberly) Laqua, Austin. Stepbrothers: Scott (Tanya) Kornexl, Austin; Josh (Carrie) Kornexl, Chandler, AZ. Grandmothers: Pat Laqua, Mazeppa and Adeline Schletty, West Concord. Nieces & nephews: Niko, Owen and Aria Engesser; Brandi and Riley Schletty; Zakai, Talia and Tynan Laqua, along with step nieces and nephews, aunts,

uncles and cousins.

Dallas was preceded in death by his infant sister, Trisha Joy Laqua; grandfathers: Richard (Dick) Laqua and Rolland (Rollie) Schletty, an aunt and two cousins.

Dallas will be forever remembered for his blue eyes, sly smile, charming and caring disposition, relentless desire to help others, sacrifices for friends and family, and unconditional and unending love for his daughter.

A Public Visitation was held on Friday, August 27, 2021 from 3:00-4:00 PM at the Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord, MN. A private funeral service will be held later.

Memorials can be sent to the family or to a suicide foundation of the donor's choice.

Sandra Kay Rasmussen

Sandra Kay Rasmussen, 79, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at Mayo Clinic Saint Mary's Campus in Rochester, MN.



Sandra - or Sandy as she was known by friends and family, was born to Palmer and Mildred Hanson,

February 7, 1942, in Hayfield, Minnesota. She graduated from Hayfield High School. She married her High School Sweetheart, James Rasmussen on September 15, 1960 and they made their home Dodge Center. Together they raised their only child, Shawn Rasmussen.

Sandy was a cab assembler at Crenlo until she retired in 2007. She often volunteered at the American Legion in Dodge Center and was a cherished member of her church. Sandy enjoyed spending time with her friends, watching her soap operas and game

shows, and playing bingo. She also enjoyed camping and cheering on her grandchildren. Above all, she loved spending time with her family. Although she was little, she was such a hard worker and very strong with one of the biggest, warmest, loving hearts.

Sandy was preceded in death by her parents, Palmer and Mildred, and her siblings Dottie, Chuck, Richie, Eugene, Illa, Shirley, and Phillis. Her husband, James, passed away on September 14, 2010.

Survivors include her son Shawn, her cherished grandchildren Kelli Williams (Ryan) of Pine Island; Adam Rasmussen (Kat) of Georgetown, TX; and Jared Rasmussen (Kaylee) of Pine Island and her beloved great-grandchildren Jaiden, Kayslynn, Knox, Jaysie, and Jaxton, and one brother, Tommy Hanson of Austin, MN.

She will be greatly missed by many.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 11, 2021 at Faith Lutheran Church, 308 2nd St NW in Dodge Center. Reverend Mike Zaske officiated. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street P.O. Box 502, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507) 374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

Jean Barber

Jean Barber, age 61, passed away peacefully at her home in Dodge Center, MN on August 25, 2021 from her 3 year battle with cancer.



Jean was born in Mora, MN to Virgil and Lois (Walker) Narveson on November 30th, 1959. She was raised on a dairy farm and was very involved in 4-H where she showed cattle. She graduated from Mora High School in 1978. She then moved to Minneapolis for dental school where she lived for 4 years.

Jean met Bradley Barber in 1982 and got married to him on October 8, 1983. They lived in Austin, MN for 6 years before moving to Dodge Center in 1989. They had 3 children together and opened their home to many neighborhood kids and foreign

exchange student.

Jean worked as a dental assistant for 14 years and after going back to school, she was a dental hygienist for 29 years. She absolutely loved her job as a dental hygienist in Dodge Center. She mentioned how she loved to go to work every morning and how her coworkers and patients made every day so enjoyable.

Jean's passion was quilting. She enjoyed gathering at Camp Lebanon in northern Minnesota with all the sewing sisters for "quilt camp." She poured her love into each stitch. Every quilt she gave represented a hug from Jean whenever you needed it. She was an active member at Faith Lutheran Church, and she felt like other members of the church were like extended family. She also enjoyed spending time at the lake cabin, being with family and friends, travel and playing cards. Her favorite games were Pictionary and Quidler. She was a loving, creative, organized, wise, determined and artistic woman. She was an amazing wife, mother, and friend to many.

"I feel very blessed to have each and every person in my life; friends, family, patients at work that added quality to my life. Each and every one was important to me." - Jean Barber

Jean was preceded in death by her father, Virgil Narveson and her son, Nathan Barber.

Jean is survived by her loving husband of 38 years, Bradley Barber. Jean is lovingly remembered by her children, Braden Barber and Jacqueline Barber; her daughter-in-law, Bridgette Rebbeck; her future son-in-law, Garet Kubat; her granddaughter, Arden Barber; her mother, Lois Narveson; her siblings, Gary Narveson, Rick Narveson, Vicki (Randy) Terpstra, Ron (Irene) Hines and several extended family and friends.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 4, 2021, at Faith Lutheran Church, 308 2nd St NW in Dodge Center. Visitation was 4:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, September 3, 2021, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW in Dodge Center and one hour prior to the service at the church Saturday. Interment was in Red Oak Grove in Austin, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW P.O. Box 502, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507) 374-2155. Blessed be her memory.

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**West Concord
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**A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on
Monday, October 4, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**It will take place at Faith Community Church, 305 State St N (Hwy 56)
in West Concord.**

To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: West Concord.

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Craig Schlichting
Superintendent

educational opportunities in a safe, caring and respectful environment.” These are guiding statements for me as a leader of our school district. My job is to ensure that we are doing everything we can to fulfill those statements and make sure that they are more than just words on a piece of paper. The next piece of our plan describes our core values. This is a short paragraph that states:

“Building relationships where everyone is welcomed, has a sense of belonging, and is valued. Committed to student achievement by honoring interests, individuality, and high-quality education. Encourage and celebrate innovation and creativity. Committed to high standards, expectations and accountability.”

An effective strategic plan guides the work we do as a school district. It is a document that the district uses as a roadmap for success. This document also has our aims and goals for our district. It has also been recently updated with the “Profile of a Graduate.” This was developed by our

Triton Public Schools, like most schools has a Strategic Plan. It begins with our school district vision statement – “Developing Lifelong Learners” and then our mission statement, “Inspiring and preparing learners for life by providing

school community to be like a reflection of the things we need to emphasize, and ultimately the qualities our graduates will have from Triton Public Schools. This graphic (posted on the right) emphasizes the qualities that a group of stakeholders identified as a priority for our students.

When I began as a superintendent in 2019, I felt that many positive things were happening in our district, but we were not doing a very good job of promoting those things to our community. When I was able to get out and about in the community to talk about our operational levy, I realized many people were unaware of some of the positive things that were happening in our district. In order to build the pride in our district, I needed to do a better job of communicating the positive things that are happening. I feel that we got a little sidetracked doing that with the onset of COVID that took place half-way into my first year as a superintendent. As I begin my third year, I hope to reestablish the goal of promoting the good things that are happening in our district. I am very excited to announce that

Triton Public Schools has an app that you can download to keep up with what is happening in our district. I hope you find it easy to use, and informative. One could say that I picked the worst time to become the next superintendent, but I am often reminded that times of adversity really provide the best time to have an impact as a leader. I hope that my leadership can really help to emphasize the great things our staff and students are doing here at Triton Public Schools!

Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have regarding our school district. You can email me at schlich@triton.k12.mn.us or you can call me at 507-418-7530 to reach me at the district office. I would be happy to set up a time to meet with you or your organization. I believe that communication is an important aspect of my job responsibility, and I welcome the opportunity to learn from your perspective. GO COBRAS!

#WeAreTriton

Triton Welcomes New Teacher

(continued from page 1)

Each new school year brings about a positive change for students. And Jennifer Wyttenbach is dedicated to excellence in education and looks forward to helping Triton students reach their full potential. Mrs. Wyttenbach earned her Bachelor's

Degree in Elementary Education with a Language Arts endorsement from Winona State and her Masters Degree in Education is also from Winona State. She was awarded the Kasson- Mantorville School District Distinguished Service Award in 2020.

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TRITON CLASS OF 2022

2022

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Scott Nolan is a senior at Triton High School. His parents are Naci & Alex. His siblings are Farran Berg and Cody Christian. In school he is active in Student Council. He is involved in Football, Basketball, Baseball, Trap Shooting and Soccer. His hobbies and pastimes include video games, reading books and spending time outdoors. His favorite actor is Ryan Reynolds. After graduation he plans to go to college.

SCOTT NOLAN

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Fall Fun Event at Harvest Acres

On October 2nd and 3rd sheep will be grazing on their pastures, llamas will be walking on paths, fiber enthusiasts will be drooling, squeezing and touching all sorts of fiber and fiber arts from 15 vendors from the midwest.

There also will be food trucks (Steve B Barbeque and Don's Crumble Beef) for the people to graze, games and crafts for the children to do and learn about fiber and life on the farm. And you don't want to miss any of it!!!

All this fun will be happening at the Harvest Fiber Festival at the Harvest Hill Acres farm on the outskirts of Dennison. It is a free, fibery (yes that is a word and has nothing to do with your diet) family, fun event. Dean and Diana Treangen are the

owners of this farm and have been in the area for the last four years. There are other events that happen at their farm, but this is a new event that they are hoping for a large fun turnout.

Dean and Diana both lost their management jobs at a large local zoo. Dean had been there for 20 years, Diana 13 years but she not only lost her job, but her zoo career. She has been in the zoo and wildlife field for 40 years. The farm in Dennison was a dream, to have "some sheep in the pasture and yarn in the studio attached to the barn". Loosing her job, the farm animal support took a hit. Her paycheck took care of the animals. So in 2020 as many lives changed, so did theirs. Dean was able to retire. Diana was just out of a job, and to get another zoo job would require them to move and sell the farm. Diana decided to put a lot of energy into the farm, the onsite yarn store (no longer a craft room) and let the animals "earn their food". 80 CVM Romeldale sheep, 2 llamas, some chickens, cats and dogs and one angora rabbit eat a lot!!! The fiber from the sheep, llama and

even the rabbit are used in the products produced for the farm. The Harvest Fiber Festival is a product of the efforts. The farm is in the Sogn Valley area, with many trees on the property. Fall colors are the first order of the event, there will be farms and fiber artists from Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota (many from this area) at the fair.

There will be kids crafts and games for the children. The sheep and their llamas (that guard them from predators) will be in 4 different pastures. Diana was hoping the fiber products would be the star of the show, but she thinks otherwise. For the interested there will be 4 very tame llamas available for walks with guides around the farm, \$5.00 will get you a ticket for that fun.

This free event will happen rain or shine Saturday Oct 2 9-5:00 and Sun Oct 3 9-3:00! Bring your masks for inside buildings, your family for fun and food, and maybe bring your mama to meet those Llamas!!!

7477 400th Street Dennison, 713-244-4184 (cell) and check the Harvest Hill Acres Facebook page for daily updates!



In U.S., More Cats Than Dogs Test Positive for Rabies

September 28 is World Rabies Day, a day to raise awareness about rabies virus and promote prevention and control efforts worldwide. But how much do you really know about the disease?

In TV shows and movies, rabies is typically depicted as a frothing-mouth wild animal disease. However, rabies can present itself in many ways and can affect any domestic warm-blooded animal. Dr. Gary Brummet, a small animal primary care veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, says that the best way to prevent rabies is to vaccinate pets regularly.

Rabies is a disease that is caused by a virus found throughout the world. It is fatal to mammals, including dogs, cats, and humans.

"Rabies is transmitted through a bite or direct contact with the virus," Dr. Brummet explains. Any other means of transmission is rare. The rabies virus itself is found in the saliva of an infected animal. The virus travels from the location of the bite to the brain via the nerves. After it reaches the brain, the virus will travel to the salivary glands, where it can then be transmitted to others.

"The speed at which an animal becomes infected with rabies after a bite can vary greatly," Dr. Brummet says. "The closer the bite is to the head, the faster the illness will show clinically." This process can take anywhere from two weeks to six months.

In North America, the skunk, fox, raccoon, coyote, and bat are important sources of infection. However, rabies is not only in wildlife, but also in domestic species, including cats and dogs. In 2017, 62 dogs and 276 cats tested positive for rabies in the United States, according to data published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

"In Illinois and the United States, bats are the number one species that transmit rabies," Dr. Brummet explains. Bat bites are incredibly small and hard to see. If any contact is made with a bat, it is important to safely contain that bat and visit a veterinarian and human physician as soon as possible. The bat will need to be sent in for rabies testing.

"There are two forms of symptoms that rabies can exhibit. The first is known as the dumb form, and the second is the furious form," Dr. Brummet explains. The dumb form, which is more common in dogs, involves progressive paralysis of the limbs and face and causes difficulty swallowing. The furious form is the typical and more well-known form of rabies. Animals will become aggressive and excitable, making it more likely that they bite another and spread the virus.

"The most common symptom of rabies is abnormal behavior," Dr. Brummet says. An example is a skunk wandering in the daytime, because skunks are normally not out in the daylight at all.

A classic sign of rabies is the appearance of foam or froth in the mouth; the virus causes excessive salivation, which allows it to be transmitted more easily.

Rabies is untreatable and fatal in animals. Therefore, it is necessary to prevent infection in people who have been bitten by means of a series of rabies vaccine and human rabies immune globulin injections: four injections over 14 days.

Whenever there is an animal bite and rabies is suspected, the animal will be kept in isolation and observed.

"State law says that if any veterinary official learns that an animal bit a human being, the bite must be reported. The animal must then be quarantined for 10 days," Dr. Brummet says. During this time, a veterinarian will safely examine the animal for signs of rabies. If, after 10 days, there are no signs of rabies, the animal will be allowed to return to normal life with its family.

"If an animal is bitten by another animal that is suspected to have rabies, there are two paths the protocol can follow, depending on the vaccination status of the animal," Dr. Brummet explains. If the animal has ever been vaccinated, then it is a 45-day quarantine and isolation that can be done at home. If the animal has never been vaccinated, then it is a 6-month quarantine. Animal control will make the decision regarding the best location for the animal to be during the quarantine.

"With the outcome of rabies infection being death, the best way to keep pets healthy is to routinely vaccinate them for rabies," Dr. Brummet says. Vaccines have done a great job to reduce the number of rabies cases in the United States. Human rabies, also fatal, used to be very common before the vaccine was available. Now, there are only 1 to 3 rabies deaths among people in the U.S. each year.

Rabies vaccination has saved both animal and human lives.

"Animals should be kept on leash or in a fenced-in area when outside to avoid an unfortunate encounter with wildlife," Dr. Brummet advises. He also notes that if you spot a wild animal acting abnormally, you should contact animal control right away.


If you have any questions about the rabies virus, contact your local veterinarian.

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By Jim Miller

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Financial Help for Retirees Affected by COVID

Dear Savvy Senior:

Are there any financial assistance programs you can refer me to? The coronavirus pandemic has cost me my part[1]time retirement job and depleted my savings account. --Needy Retiree

Dear Needy:

In addition to the \$1,200 federal coronavirus stimulus check that was distributed in April and May, there are many other financial-assistance programs (both public and private) that can help struggling retirees, as well as give relief to family members who help provide financial support for their loved ones. To find out what types of assistance you may be eligible for, your best option is to visit BenefitsCheckUp.org, a free, confidential Web tool designed for adults 55 and older and their families. It will help you locate federal, state and private benefits programs that can assist with paying for food, medications, utilities, health care, housing and other needs. This site – created by the National Council on Aging – contains more than 2,500 programs across the country.

To identify benefits, you'll first need to fill out an online questionnaire that asks a series of questions like your date of birth, ZIP code, expenses, income, assets, veteran status, the medications you take and a few other factors. It takes about 15 minutes.

Once completed, you'll get a report detailing all the programs and services you may qualify for, along with detailed information on how to apply. Some programs can be applied for online; some have downloadable application forms that you can print and mail in; and some require that you contact the program's administrative office directly (they provide the necessary contact information).

If you don't have Internet access, you can also get help in-person at any of the 84 Benefit Enrollment Centers located throughout the U.S. Call 888-268-6706 or visit NCOA.org/centerforbenefits/beans to locate a center in your area.

Some centers also offer assistance over the phone.

Types of Benefits

Depending on your income level and where you live, here are some benefits you may be eligible for:

Food assistance: Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can help pay for groceries. The average SNAP benefit for 60-and-older households is around \$125 per month.

Other programs that may be available include the Emergency Food Assistance Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Healthcare: Medicaid and Medicare Savings Programs can help or completely pay for out-of-pocket health care costs. And, there are special Medicaid waiver programs that provide in-home care and assistance too.

Prescription drugs: There are hundreds of programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations that help lower or eliminate prescription drug costs, including the federal Low-Income Subsidy known as "Extra Help" that pays premiums, deductibles and prescription copayments for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.

Utility assistance: There's the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as local utility companies and charitable organizations that provide assistance in lowering home heating and cooling costs.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Administered by the Social Security Administration, SSI provides monthly payments to very low-income seniors, age 65 and older, as well as to those who are blind and disabled. In 2020, SSI pays up to \$783 per month for a single person and up to \$1,175 for couples.

In addition to these programs, there are numerous other benefits they can help you locate such as HUD housing, home weatherization assistance, tax relief, veteran's benefits, senior transportation, respite care, free legal assistance, job training and employment and debt counseling.



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Know Where and When to Apply Fall Nitrogen Fertilizer

Restrictions apply in some areas of state under Groundwater Protection Rule

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding farmers and commercial applicators that fall nitrogen fertilizer applications are restricted in some areas of the state. Under the MDA's Groundwater Protection Rule, fall nitrogen fertilizer application is prohibited in vulnerable areas of Minnesota due to environmental concerns or risks. Areas with coarse-textured soils or areas above fractured bedrock or karst geology are the most vulnerable to nitrate loss and groundwater contamination. View a map of the vulnerable regions of the state. For more information on the restrictions outlined in the Groundwater Protection Rule visit www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr.

In other areas of the state where fall nitrogen fertilizer application is allowed, the

MDA advises farmers and commercial applicators to check soil temperatures and wait for cooler conditions. Research shows that delaying fall application of anhydrous ammonia and urea fertilizer, as well as manure, until the average soil temperatures reach 50 degrees F or cooler helps prevent nitrogen loss, protects water quality, and ensures more nitrogen will be available for next season's crop.

To assist tracking soil temperature, the MDA provides real-time, 6-inch soil temperatures at 25 locations across the state. In addition, the MDA provides links to soil temperature from the University of Minnesota research stations and the North Dakota Ag Weather Network (NDAWN) weather stations. View the interactive map to find the current 6-inch soil temperature and the past week's history.

Although the soil temperature network was established to support application of nitrogen fertilizer, it is equally useful for those applying manure in the fall. University of Minnesota Extension recommends the same temperature delay (6-inch soil temperature below 50 degrees F) to prevent leaching losses. Research from the University of Minnesota showed liquid dairy and hog manures injected in November produced yields 10 bushels per acre higher than manures injected in September and October.

For more information on the Six-inch Soil Temperature Network visit www.mda.state.mn.us/soiltemp.

Funds Available to Update Livestock Operations Apply by November 17, 2021 for Livestock Investment Grant

Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers seeking to improve their livestock operation are encouraged to apply for the Agricultural

Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant program. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) anticipates awarding up to \$1.3 million using a competitive review process.

There will be two rounds of funding. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply during the Fall 2021 round. In Winter/Spring 2022, we will issue a second RFP for any remaining funds.

The AGRI Program's Livestock Investment Grants encourage long-term industry development in Minnesota's \$7 billion livestock industry through investment in facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. Funding for the grants comes through the AGRI Program to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries.

Applicants may apply for up to 10% of their project's total cost. Grant awards can range in size from \$400 to \$25,000. Each livestock operation is eligible to receive a lifetime maximum of \$50,000 from this grant program. To be eligible for reimbursement by this grant, you must be invoiced and pay for all project materials and services after January 1, 2022.

We must receive your proposal no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 for it to be considered. We encourage you to use our online application.

More information about the grant can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant website.



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Make Customer Service An Everyday Occurrence



By Harvey Mackay

Comedy writer Bob Orben had an interesting take on customer service: "You go to a coin-operated store and wash and dry your clothes. Then you go to a filling station where you pump your own gas. And on to a fast-food restaurant where you carry your own tray. And what is it being called? A service economy!"

The irony has not escaped customers, who will be the final arbiter of the current options.

Electronic self-service may be the wave of the future for many organizations, but lots of consumers are bucking the trend. The CRM Buyer website reports that

researchers surveyed more than 24,000 consumers in 12 countries about customer interactions, and here's what they found:

Eighty percent prefer customer service from a human being instead of an automated system.

Eighty-three percent say that interacting with a customer service rep is important on the phone or in a store.

Sixty-eight percent believe they're more likely to get a better deal when negotiating in person instead of online.

Eighteen percent said they would renew products or services because of good personal customer service, even if they were more expensive.

Good, personalized customer service is that important.

Companies are facing new and serious issues meeting the expectations of customers in the current climate. Hiring difficulties, pandemic restrictions, merchandise shortages and financial challenges have made many organizations rethink their practices. And stressed employees need support more than ever as they handle extra work and procedures.

In addition, customers who got accustomed to online shopping and home delivery have meant many businesses have had to make adjustments to the services they offer.

Those challenges aren't disappearing soon.

And an unhappy customer who receives poor service can make or break a business. Bad online reviews can cripple an otherwise thriving business.

So the one constant that must not suffer in the midst of all these obstacles is good customer service. There are some fundamentals to keep in mind to achieve that goal.

Hire the right people. The rule is you either hire smart or manage tough. Hiring smart is better, but it requires you to know what you're looking for and to recognize the skills and attitude you want. Look at experience and listen to your gut.

Keep score. If you don't measure performance, your team will be in perpetual warm-up mode. Let employees know what they're being measured on and how it is relevant to them, their customers, and the organization's bottom line.

Reward. Make sure you reward the desired outcome. For instance, if you want your salespeople to create relationships and long-term accounts, reward them with back-end commissions, bonuses or some form of appreciation.

Practice what you preach. If you want a motivated customer service rep, you need to be motivated yourself first. Are you genuinely excited about the work your group produces? You need to love your customers, because if you're not sincerely motivated yourself, you'll never motivate other people to provide excellent service.

Being put on hold on the phone is a pet peeve for most of us. Although you may have to put a client or customer on hold, offer them the courtesy of waiting or getting a call-back.

Give employees the power to actually serve the customer's needs.

Steve Hardison, who went on to become a

successful executive coach, began his career in sales at Xerox. Product returns were against company policy at the time, but according to a story in the Chicago Tribune, one day Hardison decided to let one of his customers return a copier regardless of the rule. When his boss demanded an explanation, Hardison said, "If I lose a job because I took care of a customer, then I never had a job."

The next day his boss's boss called him into his office. Hardison fully expected to get fired. Instead, the executive said, "I wish I had more people like you." His reputation for honesty and integrity was made.

Referring to a column on customer service a few years back, one of my loyal readers sent me an email about the power of personal touch. He and his wife serve on the welcoming committee at their church. Before each service, they try to greet as many people as they can with "happiness and appreciation," visitors or members alike.

He mentioned an occasion on vacation when attending another church, only one person spoke to them. As they left, the pastor greeted them, and that made all the difference in the world.


Mackay's Moral: Make "at your service" your motto.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."

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Dodge Center Council Minutes August 23, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Dodge Center, Minnesota was held on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers and Tele-Meeting, City Hall, Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Council members present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas

Council members absent:

City staff and others present: Bryce Lange, City Administrator; Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant; Angie Jarrett, Ambulance Director; Mark Barwald, Maintenance Superintendent; Dave Kenworthy, Fire Chief; Deputy Clements, others.



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Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bill Ketchum at 6:00 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

A representative from the Threshing Floor Camp was present and expressed disappointment with the City and Council in the way things had been handled with the camp. He would like Council to consider better communication if something like this presents in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve minutes of the August 9, 2021 and August 16, 2021 City Council Meetings, the July 13, 2021 HRA Meeting, and the July 20, 2021 Park Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Maas, to approve payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Ambulance Director

Angie Jarret presented information on the purchase of a new ambulance. The ambulance would be ordered this year, but delivery and payment would not occur until August 2022.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve ordering a new ambulance to be delivered and paid for August 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire

Dave Kenworthy presented three names he would like to hire as volunteer fire fighters, pending satisfactory background checks.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Blaisdell, to approve hiring three volunteer fire fighters, pending satisfactory background checks. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report

A. Water Supply Specialist

With the resignation our one of the maintenance workers staff is requesting permission to hire for a water supply specialist. This position would still do many of the same duties the maintenance workers, but would also have a more in-depth knowledge of the city's wells and water systems.

Motion made by Skogen, seconded by Trelstad, to begin the process to hire a water supply specialist for the maintenance department. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Fire Department Training Request

The fire department is requesting to hold a training at the northwest water tower on August 26. Most of the training will take place in the interior parts of the tower, which will help simulate windmill rescues. If time allows, they would also like to practice some rappelling on the outside of the tower.

Motion made by Blaisdell, seconded by Skogen, to approve fire department training to take place at the northwest water tower. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Office Fax/Printer/Copier Update

Staff has been researching an upgrade to

the office copier and has been given a proposal to lease a new Konica copier from Marco. Our current copier is serviced through Marco, and that service plan would be similar.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve the proposed lease agreement for a new fax/printer/copier for City Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Open Position Hiring

With the two current positions holding interviews in the next week and the next Council meeting not being until September 13, staff is wondering if Council would like a special meeting called to approve making an offer to a candidate.

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to approve staff to extend an offer of employment and have Council verify the offer at the next regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Census Data

Lange shared the most recent census data that had been received. The population of Dodge Center has increased by about 4.6% from 2010 to 2020. In 2010 the population was 2,670, and in 2020 the population was 2,798.

Miscellaneous

Trelstad would like City Administrator Lange to look into changing the mayor's term from 4 years to 2 years.

Adjournment

Motion made by Trelstad, seconded by Skogen, to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina Kozisek, Administrative Assistant



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north to Yang Lutheran Church.

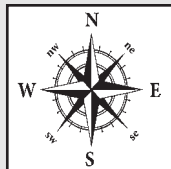
From Kenyon
Take Hwy 86 N. 7 miles
Go west on Cty 49 Blvd. 1/2 mile,
north to Yang Lutheran Church.

From Northfield
Take Hwy. 246 east to Dennison,
con. turn east 3 miles, take Hwy. 86
S. for 2 miles, go west on Cty 49
Blvd. North to Yang Lutheran Church.



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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Rain in Tennessee



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell.

Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

It likes to rain in Tennessee. It is not unusual to get two or three inches overnight. It can be sunny all morning and then a cloud can show up and pour rain and then be back to sunny an hour later. Makes the grass grow real, fast and keeps the lakes full of water.

But last week one community got too much rain. Seventeen inches in half a day. A foot and a half of rain in twelve hours. Waverly Tennessee is about thirty minutes south of us. A real good friend bought a house outside of Waverly shortly after we moved down. He posted pictures of water rushing through his backyard about mid-morning.

Seventeen inches of rain is a lot all by itself, but the town of Waverly is in a valley beside the Trace River. Highway 70 and the

railroad track are between the town and the river. The railroad track is on top of a man-made levee, keeping the river away from the highway and the town.

The emergency crews were preparing for the heavy rainstorm Saturday morning, which had already flooded some homes and businesses in the lowest part of town. But they were not expecting the levee to break. About midmorning the pressure of the raging Trace River blew out the levee in two places and within minutes the problem changed from ankle deep water seeping through doorways to a five-foot tidal wave crashing down the streets, pushing houses off their foundations, collapsing walls of houses and flushing their contents out the other side, rolling vehicles ahead of it and burying houses and commercial buildings in a muddy tsunami.

Unfortunately, people were unable to get to safety in time and more than twenty lost their lives including children swept out of their parent's arms as they fled the deluge. Hours later the waters subsided and the town was littered with houses, mobile homes, vehicles, tractors, boats and personal possessions jumbled in heaps by the floodwaters.



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**A Minnesotan:
Predictability
in Driving**



By RosaLin Alcoser

for leaving home in the morning around when the milk truck would be coming down the road.

The milk truck had a schedule making it predictable. So while it was a nuisance in my youth it's a predictability that I miss now. The reason that I miss the predictability of the milk truck is because of Highway 62 East.

62 East is the most direct route from my office to my apartment; it is also the most direct route to just about anywhere that I might want to go into Minneapolis. However, 62 East, and only 62 East not 62 West, has no predictability whatsoever. It does not seem to matter the day or the time of day that I try to take it, 88% of the time it is backed up. The other 12% of that time is in the middle of the night, at dawn, and when the heavens open up to take pity on us mere mortals..

My conclusion about 62 East is that it was just poorly designed as far as the entrances and exits go. Because when I tried to take it, before I decided to just avoid getting on it all together, opting to take a longer route home, all the backups appeared to be caused by people trying to get onto the highway.

When I was a teen driving to and from Rochester to the community college the only thing I really had to worry about on the road as a constant hazard was the milk truck in the morning.
The reason I had to worry about the milk truck is because the drive would always take one turn into the middle of the road regardless of where other vehicles might be. This causes me to create my schedule

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